

Attorney Docket No. 06267.0086**Remarks**

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13 have been amended for formalistic reasons to place the claims in condition for examination in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office after entering the U.S. national stage. None of the amendments narrow the scope of the original claims.

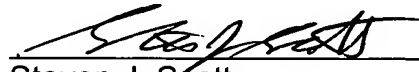
Support for new claims 14-15 appears in original claims 3 and 6.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix Detailing Amendments to Claims

1. (Amended) A powder inhaler, comprising a powder container [(1)]; an air channel [(11)] through which air can be [is] drawn via a mouthpiece; a metering member [(3)] equipped with a dosing recess [(5)], the metering member [(3)] being movable between a filling position in which the dosing recess [(5)] can be [is] filled with powder, and an inhalation position, in which the [filled] dosing recess, when filled, can be [(5) is] brought into the air channel [(11)], wherein a [the] stream of inhaled air can discharge a [discharges the] dose of powder directly from the dosing recess [(5)];

[an] actuating means [(7)] for the displacement of the metering member [(3)] between the filling and the inhalation position; and

a closure element [(16)] adapted to plug the air channel [(11)] around the metering member [(3)] in a substantially water-proof manner, so as to protect the air channel [(11)] around the metering member [(3)] from moisture, when the metering member [(3)] is in the filling position, and to open the air channel [(11)] when the metering member [(3)] is in the inhalation position.

2. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 1, wherein the actuating means [(7)] communicates or is connected with the closure element [(16)].

3. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 1, [or 2] comprising [a] first sealing means to secure the substantially water-proof plugging of the air channel [(11)] by the closure element [(16)].

4. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 1 [any of claims 1 - 3], wherein the closure element [(16)] is in the form of a closure plate connected to the actuating means [(7)].

5. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 1 [any of claims 1 - 3], wherein the closure element [(16)] is in the form of a pair of closure plates connected to the actuating means [(7)].

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6. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein the closure plate is equipped with a hole [(17)] and is slidably mounted across the air channel [(11)].

7. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 3 [any of claims 3 - 6], wherein the first sealing means comprises an elastic seal [(18)] fitted between the closure element [(16)] and the wall portion of the air channel [(11)] and means for pressing the closure element [(16)] tightly against the seal [(18)] when the inhaler is not actuated.

8. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 7, wherein the means for pressing the closure element [(16)] tightly against the seal [(18)] comprises a wedge-formed element [(20)] extending from the closure plate and adapted to contact with a [the] pushing surface [(21)] as the actuator returns to its rest position.

9. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 1 [any of claims 1 - 8], wherein the metering member [(3)] extends into the interior of the powder container [(1)].

10. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 9, wherein the metering member [(3)] is in the form of an axially movable metering rod equipped with a dosing recess [(5)].

11. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 10, wherein the actuating means [(7)] is a depressable device cover to which the metering rod is connected.

12. (Amended) A powder inhaler according to claim 3, further [any of claims 1 - 11] comprising an inhaler body, and further comprising [a] second sealing means [(19)] for providing substantially water-proof sealing between the actuating means [(7)] and the inhaler body [(2)] while allowing the movement of the actuating means in relation to the inhaler body [(2)].

13. (Amended) A powder inhaler of claim 12, wherein the second sealing means [(19)] is in the form of an elastic tube comprising a corrugated wall.